

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

EUR/WE:RDVINE

EUR:WSTABLER

R/RPM:EJSTREATOR

S/S-MR.GAMMON

NSC: MR. HYLAND

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R 101627Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179144

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, XT

SUBJECT: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON ACTING SECRETARY

1. PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO BRUSSELS FOR AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LORIDAN CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY FOR TOUR D'HORIZON. LORIDAN SAID THAT US MUST BE PATIENT ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF THE EC'S TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HE WAS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC, BASED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS IN BRUSSELS WHILE ON VACATION LAST MONTH, REGARDING (A) EC RELATIONS WITH THE US VIS-A-VIS SEPTEMBER 10-11 MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, (B) THE DRAFT ATLANTIC DECLARATION, AND (C) FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD (A) AND (B).

2. ACTING SECRETARY TOLD LORIDAN THAT WE HAVE NOT SET A TIME FRAME ON US-EC RELATIONS AND ARE DEPENDING ON THE EUROPEANS TO SET THE PACE. WE DO NOT WISH TO
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PRECIPITATE ANY MOVES WHICH MIGHT BE DIVISIVE IN EITHER

NATO OR THE EC.

3. LORIDAN ALSO SAID THAT HE "UNDERSTOOD" THAT PRESIDENT WOULD COME TO EUROPE IN NOVEMBER. ACTING SECRETARY CAUTIONED LORIDAN THAT TIMING OF TRIP HAS NOT YET BEEN SET AND QUESTION ABOUT WHAT TRIP MIGHT ACHIEVE STILL REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED. AN UNPRODUCTIVE TRIP WOULD BE WORSE THAN NO TRIP AT ALL, SINCE IT WOULD LOOK ODD IF THE PRESIDENT MADE PRODUCTIVE TRIPS TO CHINA AND THE USSR BUT NOT TO WESTERN EUROPE.

4. DURING DISCUSSION OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, ACTING SECRETARY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS ON MULTILATERAL BURDEN-SHARING AS WELL AS FRG OFFSET. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED JACKSON AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD REDUCE US TROOPS IN EUROPE TO EXTENT THAT US BOP NOT OFFSET, ALTHOUGH BIGGEST PART OF BOP DEFICIT IS MILITARY PURCHASES. RUSH

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